

Statement of Assurance
Constitutionally Protected Prayer in Public Elementary and Secondary Schools

Section 9524 of the *No Child Left Behind* (NCLB) amendments to the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) requires that, as a condition of receiving ESEA funds, each school district must certify in writing to the Arkansas Department of Education that it has no policy that prevents, or otherwise denies participation in, constitutionally protected prayer in public schools as set forth in this guidance. Such guidance was described in a letter from U.S. Secretary of Education, Rod Paige, to all school administrators, dated February 7, 2003. Also, it is referenced at the following web site:

http://www.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/religionandschools/prayer_guidance.html

The signature below assures the Arkansas Department of Education that the referenced school district complies with the conditions of Constitutionally Protected Prayer in Public Schools.

School District: _____

Superintendent (Printed) _____

Superintendent (Signature) _____

Date: _____

Return via mail or fax on or before October 15th annually to:

Arkansas Department of Education
Equity Assistance Center
Four Capitol Mall, Mail Slot 25
Little Rock, AR 72201

Phone: 501-682-4213

Fax: 501-682-5177